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Japanese Industrial Projects in Korea.

The request which the Japanese have made for agricultural and other industrial privileges in the interior of Korea opens up a very large and very important question, important both for Japan and for Korea. It will be difficult to find precedents for it in the pages of international law, and recourse can be had only to general principles. It may be said in a general way that every land owes to the world the development of its resources. This is especially true of agricultural resources, for whereas a country might be justified under certain circumstances in delaying the development of its mineral resources on the ground that they are definitely limited and therefore exhaustible such argument cannot be urged in excuse for allowing arable land to lie permanently fallow, for if properly cultivated it forms an inexhaustible resource. By withholding it from use, the country deprives the world of a source of food supply without in any way benefitting herself thereby.

For many centuries Korea has been in the enviable position of having a food supply far larger *per capita* than any other Oriental country. But on this point a few facts must be given. It is perhaps not generally known that the amount of land under cultivation today in Korea is *very much less* than fifteen years ago; and this in spite of a constant increase in population. The cause of this is manifold. In the first place the constant increase

in population has called for a larger and larger supply of building material and fuel. This has accelerated the deforestation of the country and this in turn has caused an enormous waste in the water supply. The rain flows off the hillsides rapidly, causing floods which overwhelm the rice lands with sand and rubble and at the same time denude the slopes of all vegetation, rendering the work of reforestation next to impossible.

In the second place it is estimated by fairly competent Koreans that as a result of *tonghak* depredations during the past decade 30,000 *kyul* of land have been abandoned. This represents several million bags of rice deducted from the annual yield. The province of Chŭl-la has suffered the most from this cause and has come near to surrendering its proud title of "Garden of Korea."

In the third place there has been a gradual deterioration in the thrift and diligence of the people. Whether this has been caused by official indirection does not affect our argument; suffice it to say that the average Korean of today appears to have less incentive to strenuous exertion than formerly. We believe that the causes of this deplorable fact lie largely outside the individual Korean and are easily susceptible of rectification, but of that later.

Now from all these causes combined, of which the first is doubtless the most important, we see that the margin of cultivation in Korea, so far from being on the rise is constantly on the decrease; instead of steadily creeping up the valleys and adding new land to the cultivated area the Koreans are coming back down the valleys and abandoning the less productive areas to mother nature.

Now let us glance at another phase of the question and ask how the Koreans have responded to the live demand for agricultural produce made by Japan, to what extent she has accepted the invitation to exert her latent energies in the supplying of raw material to Japanese manfacturers. The answer is a lamentable one. The Koreans have never grasped the significance of passing events. They have been absolutely blind to their opportunities and so far from leaping to the opportunity they

have had to be coaxed and wheedled into accepting even the cream of that opportunity. Had the Koreans been possessed of even a fair degree of enterprise we should long since have seen their capitalists joining hands and formulating a hundred reasonable plans for taking this tide of opportunity at the flood. The establishment of cotton manufactories in Japan would have been the signal for putting in ten thousand acres in cotton in the peninsula, and careful and exhaustive experiments with seeds brought from Egypt, America and other successful cotton growing countries. But instead of all this we see the Koreans universally howling because the export of rice and beans has raised the price of food stuffs at home. They sigh for the good old days and hanker for the fleshpots of Egypt.

And yet is there nothing to be said for him? He knows nothing about the interrelationship of supply and demand. He sees no connection between Japanese industrial enterprise and Korean agricultural produce. He sees and knows nothing beyond the hills that bound his vision. He has no faith in any man. He distrusts any medium of exchange that does not represent in itself intrinsic value. Within the limited range of his observation he is ready and quick to take advantage of enlarged opportunity and he is a keen judge of relative values. His whole training goes to prove that combinations of capital are as a rule but traps to catch his money and finally leave him in the lurch. The investment of capital is so precarious that there is no inducement in it unless, as in a lottery, a man has a chance to double his money in a year's time. The trouble lies not in lack of energy nor in innate laziness but in crass ignorance and in suspicion bred of long centuries of indirection. If he could be educated up to his privileges and his mind could be broadened so as to grasp something more than his immediate environment he would equal the Japanese in every line excepting, perhaps, that of art.

It is necessary to take this brief survey of the status of affairs in Korea in order to understand the drift of these new currents. If the Koreans were wide awake

and anxious to improve their opportunities, and if the margin of cultivation were steadily, even if slowly, on the rise things would look less dark for the Koreans; but with everything going to the bad, agriculture languishing, the people wholly apathetic and hundreds of thousands of acres of land withdrawn from cultivation, it looks seriously as if Korea were not fulfilling her duty to society in general, and there is some cause for Japan's complaint. If Korea will not cultivate her land herself someone else is sure to do it; but if she refuses she cannot complain if someone else does it for her. Shall we call it The International Law of Eminent Domain? It follows the primal law of the survival of the fittest, whose moral side is expressed in the words—To him who hath (energy to develop resource) shall more (resource) be given, but from him who hath not (such energy) shall be taken even that (resource) which he hath.

On the Japanese side, as well, there are some facts to be noted. Korea is recognized as an independent government by the treaty powers, who have established legations at Seoul. The Japanese government has guaranteed the continuance of that independence. The mere preponderance of Japanese influence in Seoul does not necessarily impair the independence of the Korean government. But the very pertinent question arises whether the attainment by the Japanese of their object in opening the uncultivated areas of Korea to Japanese enterprise will not necessarily put an end even to the nominal independence of the country. There are those who say, and with some reason, that this act on the part of the Japanese is the finger-writing on the wall "Thou hast been weighed in the balance and found wanting," and that it will necessarily be followed by the declaration of a protectorate. There are others who believe that if properly carried out it need not mean the obliteration of Korea as a co-ordinate treaty power. There is very little use in taking any sentimental ground in this matter. The fact that Korea has had an autonomous government for three thousand years, that she supplies Japan with many of her most cherished ideals, that here we have one of the most anc-

ient of extant civilizations—none of these things weigh in the balance. Might not the same or similar things be said of India, of Egypt, of Poland, in greater or less degree? And yet all these, for one cause or other forfeited their moral right to autonomous existence. To those who have known Korea intimately and who have identified themselves with her life and growth it seems a pity, and yet their view is circumscribed by personal considerations. They must take the larger broader view and recognize that these sentimental considerations must give way before larger interests. Who knows but that under the changed conditions the lot of the Korean people as individuals might be much better than it is now?

Now let us inquire what things are included in this new policy of colonization in Korea. To bring their margin of cultivation up to the point that it has reached in Japan or in China would require the labor of at least a half million of laborers. It is more than likely that from the very first the Japanese would employ Korean labor to a considerable extent in carrying out the work, especially during the time that will be required in "breaking" the virgin soil and in making the embankments for rice fields. There can be no reasonable doubt that all this will give a great impetus to Korean labor. And, moreover, the improved methods which the Japanese will introduce will be object lessons to the Koreans and we may confidently expect to see a new impetus given to the native agriculture and a consequent increase of production. But this considerable influx of Japanese population will also create a lively demand for numberless other commodities which the Koreans produce, such at paper, hemp, oils, beef, and other non-agricultural products. The stimulus will be felt in every direction and there is reason to believe that a healthful emulation will be aroused which will do much to counteract the slovenly habits of the Koreans.

In spite of many objections which may be urged we are able to imagine a state of things which would do Korea an immense amount of good. It must be remembered that a settled farming class of Japanese would be far different from the coolies who engaged in work upon the

railroads here. The latter have nothing in common with the Koreans among whom they work, and exasperate them to the last degree by their harshness, and the Koreans have no place to appeal against the rough treatment which they receive; but in an agricultural community all this would be changed and as a rule the Japanese and Korean farmers would live at peace with each other. This depends, of course, upon the method by which the Japanese colonists will be governed. And here we come to the crux of the situation.

It cannot be expected that the Japanese will submit to native Korean government. Under present administrative conditions this would be impossible. There would have to be some sort of consular jurisdiction which would work in conjunction, and in harmony, with the country prefectural governments, and the Japanese should give the Koreans clearly to understand that they had a perfect right to cite any Japanese subject before a joint prefectural court to right any grievance which they may have, and the Japanese settlers should be clearly instructed that before the law the Korean has precisely the same rights that the Japanese has. If this were done and the Koreans were shown that this colonization did not mean an opportunity for Japanese to maltreat the natives with impunity, all would go well.

One of the greatest sources of difficulty will be the regulation of the water supply. The growth of rice depends entirely upon this supply and as the fallow lands lie, as a rule, further up the valleys than the cultivated lands there will be many nice questions to be decided as to water rights. It would be a monstrous wrong if the colonists shold divert the present water supply away from the fields already under cultivation by Koreans and yet this will be the constant temptation, especially in times of drought. But there need be no trouble on this score if the Japanese are made to find or make supplementary sources of water supply which will make it unnecessary to encroach upon the Koreans. This is the most discouraging point in the whole discussion but of its absolute necessity there can be no doubt, or at least

there will be no doubt as soon as the Koreans see their water supply diverted to the fields of Japanese. They will fight to the death before they will submit to such injustice. It is very customary for the foreigner to judge of the Korean by what he sees of him in Seoul but it must be remembered that the supineness of the average *yangban* and the plasticity of the average official give no indication of the temper of the common man, the hard working farmer. He is capable of becoming distinctly dangerous, and while he would in time be put down by force of arms he could keep the colonizing work of the Japanese in continual chaos for the next fifty years. If he is grievously wronged this will be the result; if he is treated fairly all may go well. With a fair-minded Japanese agent working in conjunction with each prefect in whose district there are Japanese colonists, and a guarantee of eqality of rights before the law, it is probable that in most places all would move along quietly. The question is whether the Japanese government has at its disposal the requisite number of men of the necessary judicial quality to carry on this delicate work. Unfortunately the class of Japanese with whom the Koreans have come in contact in the interior have led the natives to the conclusion that their rights will receive scant recognition. This at the very start is a heavy handicap to the Japanese, must be overcome before the Japanese and Koreans will be able to live side by side in peace.

Whether the Koreans could offer serious opposition to the success of this colonization project will be seen from the following considerations. In most manufacturing industries the plant is all in one place and susceptible of careful guardianship, but the farmers' fields stretch out over a large area, the population is relatively sparse and a determined enemy outnumbering the Japanese ten to one could commit nightly acts of depredation that would ruin his prospects and drive him from the soil. It would take an army of police in every prefecture to make the colonist safe. Who does not know that a standing crop is the most easily ruined of any form of wealth? His very field of grain will be the Jap-

anese colonist's hostage and guarantee of good behavior.

We believe that if this project is put in operation it will have to be done very gradually indeed. If it is hurried the natural and violent prejudices of the Koreans will drive them to instant reprisals and violent methods will have to be adopted. This in the natiure of things will intensify the prejudice and will veto any lasting results. But, on the other hand, if the Japanese should select a dozen prefectures or so, place a thoroughly honest and judicious agent in each who will assure the Koreans of protection against wrong, let him have the power to veto illegal taxation of the Koreans themselves and be a check upon the prefectural *ajuns*, and in a few years we would find the people of every prefecture in the country begging that such an agent be placed in their districts as well. It would prove an object-lesson in government as well as in agriculture. The people would get a taste of fair government, they would feel the incentive that comes from added self-respect and from the feeling of security in the possession of their hard-earned wealth; and the day would not be far distant when the Japanese government would find itself able to hand back the keys of government to the Koreans, confident of their ability to profit by the lessons that they had learned. This might take ten years or twenty. We doubt if it would take more.

Since writing the above we see, from the daily paper in Seoul, that the Japanese authorities who made the request for the use of the fallow lands intend that by far the greater part of the labor is to be done by Koreans, but under the direction of Japanese, and it is distinctly denied that this is a scheme for colonization. This we consider to be a very happy augury though whether this proviso is caused by the commotion which was raised by the original proposition or whether such was the original intention it is hard to say. There can be only one voice in regard to the proposal to open up the untilled land of the peninsula. It must prove a great benefit to the country. If the work is done at Japanese expense of course the Japanese will claim the usufruct of the land and of course

the difficulties in regard to water supply will be the same as if the Japanese settlers came in force; but the absence of any large Japanese farming class will make the solution of all other difficulties comparatively easy.

There is one matter that should receive careful attention. The Korean government obtains almost all its revenue from the land tax, and the Japanese should be made to understand that this new land will properly be subject to precisely the same taxation as other land. This is all the more reasonable when we note that the use of the land will be free to the Japanese so far as rent or lease is concerned. There is no reason however why it should be tax-free as well as rent-free. If the land does not pay taxes the Japanese will simply be taking the land without giving any thing at all as exchange. This is the least the Korean government ought to expect in compensation for this valuable concession. There are those who will claim that this concession is much like that of the Russians on the Yalu, but to our mind there is a distinct difference. That meant simply the cutting off of the valuable timber which has a large and immediate market value highly in excess of the labor required to market it and which cannot be replaced when once cut, while the other is an attempt to work up a new and permanent source of wealth which will afford a perennial income. One adds to the assets of the country. The other subtracts from them. But, as we have said, there are grave difficulties to be overcome and obstacles to be surmounted before the scheme can be carried to a conclusion. There should be a campaign of education not only among the Koreans of the common class but among the Japanese of the same class as well. If the Koreans must be taught that peaceful enterprise of the Japanese in Korea cannot hurt them, the Japanese must also be taught that the Koreans have exactly as good a right to personal protection and immunity from petty assault as the Japanese themselves, and there are some who think the lower ranks of the Japanese will take a lot of teaching along this line. We can clearly foresee that if they are not so taught, there will be trouble.

Meum et Tuum.

Two gentlemen sat in a room in Seoul discussing a rather delicate matter. One was Mr. Yö, or, by interpretation, Mr. Law, and the other was Mr. Yu which means, of course, Mr. Willow. There relationship was not an unusual one. Mr. Law was a blue-blooded yangban, the blueness of his blood being increased, it may be, by the fact that in spite of his fine house he had so little money that he could not buy enough food to supply red corpuscles to his vital fluid. For this reason he had been driven to taking in boarders, that is he had let a corner of his house to Mr. Willow for a consideration. This Mr. Willow seemed always supplied with money but he was silent as to the source from whence he obtained it.

They were now seated in the tenant's *sarang* and Mr. Willow was urging his landlord to strike for the position of prefect in the country. Mr. Law agreed to the suggestion in the abstract but objected that he had not a single cash wherewith to urge his claims upon the Home Minister who had charge of these administrative plums.

"But don't let a little thing like that stand in your way. How much will it take to give piquancy to your claim?"

"I suppose a hundred thousand would move his heart, but this sum is nowhere in sight."

Mr. Willow unlocked his ponderous *pandaje* and counted out the necessary sum.

"Take this and secure an appointment. I cannot see such talent as yours wasted in merely playing chess with me as you do every day."

Who ever heard of a Korean yangban accepting a loan! But Mr. Willow insisted and Mr. Law succumbed to the tempter. The next day he had his commission in hand but—

"I can't go without a secretary, and I know no one to ask to accompany to me." Mr. Willow smiled.

"Perhaps I would do."

"You!" exclaimed the prefect-elect in an embarassed tone. "I have known you only a few weeks, and it would be—well, anything but conventional."

"But there are considerations that sometimes compensate for such irregularities," said Mr. Willow glancing significantly toward the chest from which the money had been provided. Mr. Law saw the force of the argument and with a show of cordiality offered his tenant the position.

A week later the prefect in his two-man chair and his secretary on a donkey rode up in state to the prefectural buildings in the little fourth class district to which they had been accredited, and Mr. Law took over the keys of office.

For a time all went well, but Mr. Law thought more of chess and his pipe than he did of administering the government of his district and gradually he fell in arrears in his accounts with the central government. The revenue due to be paid in Seoul had a way of finding its way into his private purse and thence by various avenues into the hands of the shop-keepers, wine-merchants and other purveyors to his magisterial comfort. The official communications from Seoul began to take on a critical tone and one fine day Mr. Law was dismayed to learn that another prefect had been appointed in his place and ten days of grace was all that lay between himself and open disgrace.

During the year that had elapsed one of the *ajŭns* or prefectural clerks had been taking advantage of his manifest opportunities and had extorted enormous sums from the people and filled his store-house with valuable goods. At this painful juncture Mr. Willow, his confidential secretary, stood in the breach and by a plan, all his own, extricated his patron from his painful position. It was late one night when Mr. Willow pushed back the chess pieces and said:

"There is only one way out of the woods, Mr. Law,

and I fear you will have to take that way however much it may shock your ideas of propriety. Come with me. I have something to show you." The bewildered prefect followed his guide and soon they brought up in the rear of the afore-mentioned *ajŭn's* well-filled store-house. To the prefect's horror Mr. Willow proceeded to make a hole in the wall, and he worked with such evident experience and to such good purpose that Mr. Law soon saw the explanation of Willow's ready money. The hole was now large enough to admit the body of a man, and Mr. Willow, brushing the dust from his hands, bade the prefect enter, which he did on all fours, thinking perhaps that he would simply feast his eyes upon the *ajŭn's* wealth and then retire.

The first thing their eyes rested on was a generous jar of wine, which Mr. Willow proceeded to sample. It was of prime quality, and before long the prefect had forgotten everything and between bowls was humming to himself a ditty whose free interpretation would have been "We won't go home till morning." Nor did he, as the sequel shows. About two o'clock Mr. Willow left him in a drunken stupor on the floor and climbing to the roof lay down and began making curious noises which soon brought the occupants of the house to their feet. They investigated and found the doughty prefect in sweet slumber beside the half empty jar of wine. There was no hesitation as to the method of his disposal. A great leather bag was brought, the unconscious prefect was tumbled in, and ten minutes later the bag and its queer contents were tied to a huge tree that grew in the prefect's yard. The morrow would show what it would show.

Soon all was still again, the graceful Willow glided off the roof and showed by his actions that the night's work was not completed. He glided around the *ajŭn's* house till he came to the room where the bed-ridden and speechless grandmother of the latter reposed. By arts known to the brotherhood he soon had the door open and in almost as little time as it takes to tell he had the aged person on his back and was speeding toward the big tree.

The transfer took but a moment and after the prefect had been taken to the well and treated to a few buckets of cold water, externally, night reigned once more undisturbed.

The early morning beheld an unusual stir in the town. The *ajŭn* was busy calling the people out to witness the sight of a life-time. In his excitement his *mangŭn* was loosened and his hair flew about his face. Followed by an excited crowd he came into the courtyard of the prefect's house. Big and little, old and young, came crowding after him with mouth agape.

"There," cried the *ajŭn*, striking a tragic attitude and pointing toward the bag, "I have caught the thief and I will have him paddled to a pulp, even if he is the *prefect*!"

What? could it be that the prefect was in that bag? The crowd stood transfixed. With trembling hands the *ajŭn* tore open the mouth of the bag and, spurning it with his foot, rolled it over and over. Out came the venerable form of his grandmother, while at the same moment the prefect, dressed in his most imposing uniform, and showing no signs of the night's entertainment except a certain suffusion of the eye, stepped out and inquired what the disturbance was all about.

The crowd stood open-mouthed and the horrified *ajŭn* was transfixed with amazement at the sight of his honored grandmother whereas he had expected to unmask the prefect.

The latter loudly ordered the yard cleared and then calling in the *ajŭn* smoothly informed him that justice could be compounded for by the payment of five million cash or $2,000. What was there to do? The whole village were witnesses of his undoing and the *ajŭn* meekly paid the fine and made his way homeward with his grandmother on his back. The prefect and his secretary packed up and left forthwith. All of this goes to prove that knavery may prove the antidote to knavery, for the *ajŭn* had amassed his fortune by means as questionable as those by which he was relieved of it.

The Russo-Japanese War.

The past month has seen little of importance in Russian operations in Korea. It is still as difficult as ever to guess what possible use this worrying of the Koreans can be to the Russian cause in general. It is not done on a large enough scale to detach any of the Japanese forces from direct operations in Manchuria but it is difficult to believe that there is no definite plan behind it. We shall have to wait developments before we can see what they are really up to.

The only incident of any particular importance has been the wanton bombardment of the treaty port of Wonsan and this was important only because of the inconvenience it caused the people living there. It had no influence whatever on the war itself but it illustrated, as perhaps no other incident has done so clearly, the Russian disregard for the courtesies of civilized warfare. We give an account of the affair from the standpoint of a foreign eye-witness.

About five o'clock on the morning of June 30th seven Russian torpedo-boats entered the harbor of Wonsan. Five of them stopped some distance out but two came near the customs schooner, a boat was lowered and some Russian officers boarded her. Mr. Thorson of the customs customarily sleeps or board the schooner, and he was closely questioned by the Russians. They insisted on being shown the location of the Japanese consulate, barracks and telegraph office, but Mr. Thorson was not there for the purpose of supplying the Russians with information and all they learned was the rather unsatisfactory information that these buildings were not in sight. He willingly pointed out, however, the foreigners' residences and the Chinese quarter. The Russians apparently intended to spare these portions of the town if they found it convenient.

Of course the Japanese residents were immediately aware of the situation although the Russians took no

pains to inform them or warn then of danger, and hasty preparations were made throughout the Japanese settlement for immediate removal, but the people had no idea that the ball would open without giving non-combatants time to remove to a place of safety. When, therefore, the Russians began to shell the place an hour after their arrival it took the people unawares, and naturally a panic ensued. Women and children cannot be expected to stand quietly and be shot at. The streets were immediately filled with a struggling, panting, screaming crowd of men women and children some trying to carry a bundle of their valuables and others throwing everything aside in the mad rush to get out of range of those terrible missiles. Our informant lived on the hill facing the bund and coming out on his verandah he saw the pitiful sight in the streets below. He heard the shell whizzing through the air and one of them fell just outside his gate. It failed to explode and he went out and secured it, finding it be a four pound shell. He then hurried away to the houses of some other foreigners to learn if any damage had been done, for the Russians were firing wildly and without any regard to the position of foreigners' houses. In about half an hour there was a cessation of the firing, but the respite was only a short one. The Russians opened up again but this time at a large Japanese schooner that was entering the harbor with a full cargo. They set fire to her and she burned all that day and the following night. A newspaper man who was in the town told him that he had counted 276 shots in all.

Some of the shells went over the town and struck in the valley two or three miles back. Several struck near the house of Pastor Fenwick and at other points in the environs of Wonsan. It seemed as if the Russians were trying to find the Japanese barracks but did not know where to aim. Strange to say, with all this firing no one was killed or even wounded. Besides the schooner which was burned a small Japanese steam launch was sunk. Many shots were fired into the warehouses along the shore but very little damage was done. The foreigners in

their exposed position on the hill had no time to get away and so remained perforce and watched the novel scene. They all felt very much outraged that a Russian fleet should come in and bombard an unfortified port without giving the least notice of their intentions.

From their outlook on the hill they watched the torpedo-boats go out and join the *Russia*, *Gromoboi*, *Rurik* and a collier which came up from behind an island. All sailed off southward at about eleven o'clock. The people in Won-san think that thay have a right to expect a periodical visit from this fleet until such time as it falls in with the Japanese squadron, after which they fear no more trouble.

It is unnecessary to comment on this wanton violation of international usage. To scare women and children out of their wits and send them in a wild and breathless chase out of a peaceful settlement does not appeal to our ideas of chivalrous warfare. It can do nothing to cripple the enemy's fighting force, and can only invite reprisals. We doubt very much, however, whether even this wanton cruelty would so exasperate the Japanese as to make them forget the ordinary decencies of modern warfare. It is no credit to the Russians that scores of these innocent women and children were not killed. It merely emphasises the bad marksmanship of the Russians. We shall be surprised if a strong protest is not made by those foreign Powers whose subjects were imperilled by this wanton exhibition of brutality.

The life of a Korean official in northeastern Korea must be anything but pleasant. He has to sit and see his people plundered without being able to lift a hand in opposition. He even has to act as an instrument of the Russians in collecting plunder for them. He cannot help him, and yet he knows all the time that every ounce of aid he gives the Russians will add pounds to the punishment that will be meted out to him at Seoul. The Russians built a bridge across the Tuman and occupied Korean territory in the vicinity with some thousands of their troops, according to Korean reports which may exaggerate anywhere from three to ten fold. The rains

swelled the river and washed away the bridge, we hear, which must have been of the frailest kind. It is said that the Russians were short of clothing and so appropriated Korean men's and women's garments but they soon got so filthy that even the Koreans were disgusted at them.

Odds and Ends.

The Ten Thousand Year Bridge.

The great bridge at Ham-heung which the playful Russians partly destroyed a few weeks ago is considered quite a wonder by the Koreans. It is their "Tay Bridge" or "Brooklyn Bridge." It is about half a mile long and crosses the wide sandy bed of a stream that fills its banks only during the rainy season. It is built on wooden pillars and during most of the year it has, like the old time London Bridge, many houses or shops built upon it. These are all taken away however upon the approach of the rainy reason. In the hot summer nights many people go out and sleep on the bridge and more than once sudden storms among the mountains have swollen the stream so suddenly that it has been partly swept away before the sleepers were aware of their danger. Its curious name came from the following incident: A gentleman of Ham-heung had an only son who was the pride of his heart. The lad's name was Man-se 萬歲 or "Thousand year," or "generation." The boy was standing on the bridge one day looking down into the water, when he lost his balance fell in and was drowned—the father was inconsolable and the fatatily made such an impression on the people that they always spoke of the bridge as the place where Man-se was drowned. So it came to be called the Man-se-kyo or "Ten Thousand Year Bridge." The pillars that uphold the bridge are natural forked timbers sunk in the sand and in the crotches of these lie the cross pieces. The floor of the bridge is made of squared timbers seven inches thick laid

side by side and tied together with the tough Korean vine called *chik*. The bridge is so little elevated above the ordinary surface of the water that portions of it are washed away almost every year. As its repair devolves upon the Government and the contract nets a handsome profit to the builders the annual fall of this bridge is looked upon as one of the good things of the season by many a thrifty carpenter, and a slight rainy season is looked upon as something of a misfortune.

Editorial Comment.

It has been many years since Seoul has enjoyed so startling a sensation as that which followed upon the Japanese request that the uncultivated lands of Korea be turned over to Japan for exploitation. We do not propose to discuss the ethics of the proposition. The foreign public and the Koreans have so fully made up their minds on that point that it requires no mention, but we may be permitted to examine into some of the causes for the panic which seems to have seized all Korean officialdom in view of the request of the Japanese.

We have before intimated in the *Review* that the Koreans are very interested and very keen observers of the actions of the Japanese and of the Russians in view of the contest now being carried on. They do not have much to say by way of definite opinion but their interests are too greatly at stake for them to be at all apathetic as to the result. As a rule the Korean is glad that Japan is proving victorious in the fight. He is passionately desirous that neither Russian nor Japanese shall have more than advisory power in the peninsula and his leaning toward Japan has been simply because he had weighed the chances so far as he could and had come to the conclusion that the Japanese would be less likely to encroach upon Korean sovereignty than the Russians would be. Ever since 1876 Japan has stood up for the independence of Korea and in spite of minor mistakes

has given the Korean reason to believe that that independence will be upheld. The treaty of Shimonoseki embodied the idea; the Japanese agreement with Russia clearly stated it; the terms of the Anglo-Japanese alliance reiterated it; the protocol of last winter between Korea and Japan guaranteed it. It has always been and we believe is now a fixture in Japan's policy anent Korea. The Koreans as a rule believed this and gave the Japanese their tacit sympathy in their fight against Russia. But all the time they have been keenly on the watch to see to what extent Japan would swerve from this policy under stress of circumstances. They did not object to the Japanese armies landing here and traversing the country in pursuit of the Russians. They did not object to the granting of the fisheries concession on the northwest coast, for the Japanese pointed out that this was necessary in order to help feed the armies at work in Manchuria.

But now that the war has passed on across the border the Japanese authorities, without any mention of military necessity, ask the Korean Government to turn over to them the fallow lands of the entire kingdom. The Korean stands aghast at the magnitude of the demand and asks what Japan has done for Korea or what she proposes to do as an equivalent for this concession. He can see nothing that will begin to compensate Korea for the loss of what he believes to be one half the area of his country. The natural suspiciousness of his nature leads him to the instant conclusion that this is a wanton aggression. Now we have pointed out elsewhere that Korea owes it to the Japanese and to the world at large to develop these resources, to put this potential wealth into circulation. The miser is a foe to society in that he keeps money out of circulation. The same is measurably true of any land which persistently allows arable soil to lie fallow. The Japanese have done much for Korea and it is only fair that Korea should do this much for Japan especially since in the doing of it she will benefit herself even more than Japan. So far Japan is well within her rights, but the Korean is

not educated up to the point where he can recognize that he owes anything to the world at large. Moral obligation weighs very lightly on his conscience. He sees in this move nothing but wanton aggression. Hence the panic.

But the question arises whether it is true that all that Japan wants is that this land be put under cultivation so that Japan may have an enlarged food and raw material supply. If so she would be as well satisfied if the Koreans themselves should develop it as if she should do it herself. The product in food stuffs and raw material would be practically the same. If this were her object the obvious course for her to have pursued would have been to approach the Korean government with a friendly proposition urging that the Koreans be encouraged to undertake the work and offering to aid by finding a part of the necessary capital, which would of course be thoroughly secured. But if the Japanese were convinced beforehand that the Koreans would not carry out this work and that if done it must be done by Japanese, it would have been in place for them to have asked to be allowed to do it subject to some definite and specified plan which would have indicated clearly the scope of the work and the limitations under which it would be carried out, but instead of this they made a general demand and left the particulars to be worked out later. If Korea should accede to such a demand and grant the concession it would be like contracting for the building of a house and afterwards drawing up the specifications. The fact that the demand was pushed strongly and without waiting to formulate a definite scheme has led some to believe that it was the purpose of the Japanese to secure the concession and then use it as collateral on which to raise another war loan. If so it would have been better to have frankly said so for the demand in the bare form in which it was made was sure to be interpreted by the Koreans as a direct aggression. It was a proposition that needed to be made in the most careful way that human ingenuity could devise. But it may be asked why it was necessary to

put it in such a way as not to excite the people. If the government should acquiesce and the concession be definitely granted why would not everything move on as smoothly as did the railway or mining or timber concessions? The answer to this question brings us to the kernel of the matter and lies embedded in the very fiber of the Korean character. The Korean is an agriculturist. You may take his mines, his fisheries, his forests and yet not touch him to the quick, but his land is his very flesh and substance and when you tamper with it you flick him on the raw. The soil gives him his food and drink, on it he rears his house and in it he buries his dead. It is the only thing that he will fight for or has ever fought for. He may despise his central government, hate his local magistrate and sneer at the flag, but he loves the soil with a passion which makes up for all other seeming lapses. For this reason we believe that even though the government might grant the concession and the Foreign Office might affix its seal the work itself could never be brought to a successful issue without the acquiesence and good will of the KOREAN PEOPLE.

There is reason to believe that the storm of remonstrance with which the people met the demand of the Japanese came as a great surprise to the latter. There had been a failure to gauge the feelings of the Koreans and when the quiet attitude of the disinterested onlooker changed in an hour to fierce invective and clamorous protest it was a revelation to the Japanese. It showed conclusively that the matter had been taken hold of at the wrong end, and it is greatly to the credit of the Japanese that they hastened to clear themselves of the charge of aggression. We understand that the original scheme has been laid on the table but that the Korean government has been asked to formulate a counter-proposal. In other words the Japanese hold, and rightly, to the necessity and propriety of insisting upon the development of these latent resources, and say in effect "If you will not permit us to do it in our way it is 'up to you' to suggest how it shall be done." And it is probable that this point will be carried. The Japanese have offered to lend the

Korean government ¥10,000,000 with which to establish banking facilities throughout the country whereby a beginning may be made and we hope that it will be carried to a successful issue. The trouble has always been in such enterprises that after an enthusiastic beginning the Koreans rapidly lose interest in the undertaking and it comes to nothing. The reason for this is a lack of genuine business ability or perhaps only of business training. The Korean is apt to look askance upon any business enterprise that will not double his money in a year. He prefers great risks and great profits to safe business and small profits. In this the Koreans need to take a lesson from the Chinese. It will be necessary therefore for the Japanese to stand back of the undertaking and hold the Koreans strictly to the work if it is once begun, or else it will end as so many government industrial projects have ended in Korea.

Now that the Japanese authorities have, by their prompt recognition of the insuperable obstacles to the carrying out of the original proposition, shown their continued regard for the integrity of Korean territory the excitement will be completely allayed. The whole difficulty arose from the Koreans' lack of knowledge of the Japanese intentions. Now that it is clear that there will be no arbitrary seizure of land the Koreans will soon be brought to a point where they will recognize the necessity of developing their waste land and bringing the country measurably up to its producing capacity. What counter-proposition the government will make we do not pretend to guess but that some good understanding will be reached we do not doubt.

There appear to us to be two peliminary steps that must be taken before the development of the fallow lands be well begun. The monetary system must be put on a firm basis so that the rapid fluctuation of exchange will not make business a mere lottery, and the administration of the prefectural governments must be purged of many evils which now stand as a bar to the exercise of thrift and energy on the part of the farming classes. The common people who till the land must receive an abso-

lute guarantee that they shall be taxed only to some definite and known extent and that they shall be permanently freed from the system of extra and irregular taxation which has prevailed from time immemorial. This is no small undertaking, but until it is done we see no possibility of a successful development of the agricultural resources of the country. Some way must be found whereby the prefects themselves shall voluntarily forego their enormous perquisites or whereby they can be checked in the exercise of these illegal or at least extra-legal prerogatives. It has been said that the Koreans have not the energy to develop these waste lands, but give them the absolute assurance that they shall be thoroughly protected in the use of profits which will accrue from such development and it would not be five years before the area under cultivation would be increased from thirty to fifty per cent. In our opinion the Japanese should bend their energies to the solution of these necessary questions and then it will be found that the others will solve themselves. It would be interesting to know how many foreigners have been approached by Koreans with propositions looking toward the artificial irrigation of large tracts of land. The Koreans themselves are eager for the reclamation of those lands but they want the cooperation of the foreigner, for his connection with it would prevent official squeezes, at least so the Koreans believe. This being so, the Japanese can confidently expect the development of these resources just so soon as they can bring about reforms in the administration of government which will insure to the laborer the enjoyment of the profits of his labor. We believe that such is the intention of the Japanese government and that it will be carried out speedily, and that in spite of the unfortunate misunderstanding that has arisen the Koreans, secure in the possession of their own land, will willingly cooperate with the Japanese in effecting the necessary reforms.

During the past weeks the foreign element in Korea has been led into the expression of very strong sentiments regarding the Japanese demands. We believe these have

been caused more because of genuine sympathy with the real interests of Japan than out of an unfriendly spirit. It has been felt that she was jeopardizing her own position and widening the gulf between herself and the Korean people, whereas she should be doing everything to bridge it. We believe that the outspoken opposition of foreigners generally has done much to modify the position of the Japanese and to show to them the danger of unnecessarily antogonizing the deepseated prejudices of the Korean people. We have heretofore expressed the sentiment that Japan has, in some senses, a more difficult job in handling Korea than in whipping the Russians. The latter is a military enterprise for which the Japanese are equipped both by natural aptitude and by diligent training but the former is one that calls for a different and in a sense, higher qualification. The handling of an alien people so sensitive as the Koreans is a task that will require all the patience and tact that has characterised the work of the British in India and perhaps more since Japan claims no such administrative hold upon Korea as great Britain has upon India. To uphold the independence and integrity of Korea, hold in check the acquisitiveness of a certain class of Japanese with one hand and secure the renovation of the administrative, monetary and industrial systems of Korea with the other is a task which if successfully accomplished will add to Japan's military renown the higher glory of constructive statesmanship and will be the final proof of Japan's claim to enlightenment as distinguished from mere civilization.

News Calendar.

On June 28th a young man named Yi Seung-sŭl sent a strong memorial to His Majesty arguing against the granting of the concession asked for by the Japanese. This was only one of a dozen or more of the same tenor. The Japanese press has accused them of hating the Japanese but they reply that they do not hate the Japanese but that it is necessary to check the ambition of the Japanese when it goes so far as to attempt to take away Korean land. A few days later the

Japanese *chargé d'affaires* informed the Foreign Office that these constant memorials and the false rumors circulating so wildly in Seoul were a danger to the friendly relations between Korea and Japan, and he urged the Korean authorities to suppress such demonstrations, adding that if the Koreans did not attend to the matter it would be necessary for the Japanese to interfere and make arrests. The War Office communicated with the Foreign Office saying that the government had established a bureau specially for the purpose of opening up fallow lands and that the Japanese demands were therefore unintelligible. It urged that the Japanese demands be returned and that a firm stand be taken against these encroachments upon the sovereignty of Korea.

On the 24th the Police Bureau sent a body of police to Chong-no to prevent any meeting of the people or any public demonstration. All the big shops were shut for the day.

In addition to the $5000 given by the government to the *Whang Sung Sin-mun* the Emperor has also given $4000, and ordered that the paper be not suspended again. It is evident that the paper is in some sense a government mouthpiece, but what effect it will have on the policy of the paper remains to be seen.

Song Su-nian and Song In-Sŭp have been turned over by the Japanese police to the Korean police, though the Koreans have given no guarantee that the men would be punished.

On the 26th the Foreign Office again returned the Japanese demand for land rights, to the Japanese Legation saying that the matter was creating so much disturbance among the people that the government hoped the Japanese Minister would not press the matter.

We understand that the Japanese authorities have asked the Korean government to formulate a counter proposal anent the development of latent agricultural resources. It is said that Y 10,000,000 have been offered as a loan wherewith to make possible the establishment of a bank which will loan money wherewith to develop the waste lands.

On the 27th the Japanese began throwing additional troops into Seoul. It is said that the number would be six thousand. A modified from of martial law has been established by the Japanese in Seoul in view of the possibility of trouble from the populace.

All the Koreans who have been graduated from schools in foreign countries and have returned to Korea will assemble at the Educational Department on the first of August to receive from the department diplomas reognizing their various attainments.

The Home Department has sent a notice to each district stating that the Japanese demands have been refused and will not be pressed and ordering that if any Japanese have anticipated the grauting of the concession by marking out land he must be immediately iuformed of the status of the matter and stopped.

We understand that the war correspondents who sailed away on the *Manchuria*, rejoicing that at last they were going to the front, are now back at Kobe having seen nothing of any account. Hard luck!

The Russians made an attack on Wonsan from the sea on June 30th a description of which will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Review.

The police determined to exterminate the dogs of Seoul on the ground that they ate up so much food and created such a disturbance barking at night, but so many people objected and such an outcry was raised that the scheme was abandoned. For a few days however dog was quoted in the market reports at a greatly reduced figure !

On July 1st the Minister of Education graduated the first class from the Imperial Middle School. The number of graduates was twenty. The course covered mathematics, history, geography, chemistry, physics, political economy and language, completed in the course of four year's study.

Because of the large number of Koreans who have gone to Hawaii the Korean government has determined to establish a consulate there.

On July 2nd a class of twelve was graduated from the Government Medical School. The faculty of this school is made up of Korean and Japanese instructors.

A Korean Colonization company has been organized in Kobe and Osaka for the purpose of taking advantage of opportunities which diplomacy is opening up in the peninsula.

The prefect of Yŭn-san was attacked by Japanese coolies working on the Seoul-Fusan Railway and was badly injured. The Japanese had demanded forty pairs of straw shoes and the prefect had promised to procure them but as they were not immediately forthcoming some of the Japanese, the worse for wine, entered the prefect's rooms with weapons and maltreated him severely. Two of the culprits were arrested then and sent up to Seoul where they were doubtless handled by the Japanese authorities as they deserved.

Heavy hail fell in the three districts of Tŭk-ch'ŭn, Yŏng-yu and Suk-ch'ŭn in Pyeng-an Province and the young crops were badly damaged.

Yi Chi-yong resigned from the Ministry of Law and Pak Che-sun took his place.

The prefect of Yŭng-dŭk in Pyeng-an Province reports that Koreans are making very serious complaints against the Japanese fishermen who have lately begun to ply their trade along that coast in accordance with the late agreement. They claim that one Korean has been killed and others severely injured.

The Korean account of the arrest of Song Su-man and Chŏng Insŭp is as follows. On the 16th inst. about three o'clock in the afternoon about ten members of the newly founded Po-an society met at the Cotton guild at Chong-no. Many other Koreans were present simply as spectators. Song Su-man was acting as Chairman and was haranguing the crowd, giving what arguments he could against the granting of the Japanese demand for farming and other privileges in Korea. The speaker was not on the street but inside the house, but the audience overflowed into the street to some extent. While the speaking was going on two Japanese policemen arrived on the scene, one of them being the

Japanese Chief of Police. They entered the house and quietly said that the Japanese acting Minister would like to see Mr. Song Su-man and have a little couversation with him. Mr. Song replied that he had not the pleasure of knowing the Japanese Chargé and he had nothing to discuss with him and declined to go. Thereupon the Japanese loudly iusisted upon his going and seized upou the persons of the two men and prepared to take them away. Korean policemen came on the scene and objected to the arbitrary arrest of Korean subjects without the order or permission of the Korean authorities. No attention was paid to this protest and a move was made to take the arrested men away. This would have been impossible owing to the great excitement of the Korean crowd, had it not been for a number of Japanese civilians who hurried up with drawn revolvers and formed a cordon about the arrested men. The Society immediately appealed to the Government and the Foreign Office. Yi Ha-yung the Foreign Minister sent an agent to the Society to secure an accurate account of the business after which he and the Vice Foreign Minister went to the Japanese Legation and protested agaiust the arrest, but without result, for the two men were held at the Japanese police station. The Korean police authorities ordered a discontinuance of the public meetings of the Society, solely in the interests of peace, though the governmeut aud the entire Korean populace are in complete sympathy with the purposes of the society. In spite of this prohibition an enormous crowd gathered on the 20th inst. at the Cotton guild and sent to the Foreign Office asking if the government had taken steps to frustrate the designs of the Japanese upon the sovereignty of the Korean Government, and to secure the release of the two men, The answer was in the affirmative. On the day before this, the 19th, the Japanese Minister invited the Judge of the Supreme Court, Yun Tuk-yŭng, to a conference, at which the Minister strongly objected to the opposition which the Judge had made to the proposition of the Japanese, and asserted that if he showed such a hostile spirit he could not continue to hold office under the government. The Judge was highly incensed and immediately memorialized the emperor asserting his unworthiness to hold office and asking to be released, but the emperor did not accept his resignation. The Japanese authorities sent to the Foreign Office stating that the meetings at Chongno were composed of evil men who wished to stir up riot and rebellion, and demanding what steps the government was going to take to suppress them. On the 21st a great crowd gathered at the headquarters of the Po-an Society and a long communication was sent to the government urging prompt action in the matter of the Japanese demands. About a hundred Japanese soldiers were present at the meeting but merely as spectators, for no opposition was made uor any attempt to break up the meeting. On this same day Yi Yu-in one of the vice presidents of the society had a talk with the Japanese Minister, and on the next day he met the members of the society and said that he had asked the Minister whether this action on the part of the Japanese was ordered from Tokyo or whether the Jap-

anese had merely taken advantage of their military occupation of Korea to press the demand. The Minister had replied that as Korea would not develop the waste lands the Japanese would do so, but he gave no answer to the definite questions of the vice president. But he did promise, so the vice president said, to withdraw the demands provided the society would disband first. To this the members loudly dissented, asserting that it was merely a trick to get them to disband; that when the demands were withdrawn it would be time enough to think of disbanding, for then the object of the society would be effected. Shortly after this some Japanese policemen came to the Society and said that the Japanese Minister would like to confer with some of the leading members. So five men were selected, Pak Chi-hun, Whang Yong-sung, etc., to go and see the Minister, but after they had gone with the policemen they were detained without being taken to the Japanese Legation. Soon after this a large number of Japanese gendarmes came to the Society headquarters and arrested Wun Se-seung, Sim Sang-jin, Chong In-ho and Sin Hak-kyun and at the same time seized all the records and documents of the Society.

The society had opened new quarters in Chŏn-dong at the Chinese Language School, because there was not enough room at the Cotton guild, but the Japanese closed it and guarded the doors. When the four men above mentioned, were arrested a young Korean rushed up to the Japanese gendarmes and passionately demanded that he and all the other members be arrested, since they were all alike involved, but the Japanese paid no attention to him. Arriving at Chong-no the Japanese and their captives were met by an enormous crowd of angry Koreans and were obliged to use force to prevent a stampede. One Korean in his frenzy threw off his coat, baring his bust, and dared the Japanese to thrust him through with their swords. The Japanese charged the crowd with drawn swords and in the rout which followed many Koreans were injured by being trampled upon. One of the captives Sin Hak-kyun was pierced by a bayonet. The Japanese took him to the Japanese Hospital for treatment.

A message of condolence upon the death of the Queen Dowager has been sent by the Pope to the Emperor of Korea and it was presented by Bishop Mutel in audience on the 21st inst.

The Japanese Minister called in the editors of the two Korean daily papers and informed them that the matter to be inserted in their journals must be submitted to the Japanese authorities for approval the night before its publication.

On July 1st the Japanese authorities having received the application which was returned by the Foreign Office, immediately sent it back to that office saying that this answer could not be entertained and urging that the application be granted. On the third or fourth inst. the Japanese representative informed the Foreign Office that the Japanese demands for (1) A site for a military station at Chemulpo, (2) the abolition of the Northwest Railway Bureau, (3) the repair of the Seoul-Wiju road, (4) the arrest of the men who are sending in memorials,

hostile to the Japanese, must be promptly attended to and that delay in these particulars will make it necessary to revise the treaty between Korea and Japan. The Foreign Office has stated that as the people are busy with their farming it will be impossible to begin the repairs on the Seoul-Wiju road till autumn.

The most violent memorial yet presented was by Yi Sun-böm, in which he spoke rather severely of His Majesty and of the Japanese authorities and predicted the destruction of the country. Anticipating his own arrest he went to the Supreme Court and gave himself up, saying that he was ready to meet and answer every charge against him.

Two hundred and nine spears of barley that had three, four or five stems were brought to Seoul from Nam-p'yung and presented to His Majesty. These are considered a good omen for the country.

There are four hundred ex-prefects that are worrying about arrears of taxation that they failed to send up to Seoul when it was due. The government is pressing them for payment. The aggregate of their indebtedness to the government mounts up into the millions.

The government has discovered a plan on the part of people in Seoul to send down letters to people in all the districts urging them to rise in revolt against the Japanese and oppose them in every way. The government has therefore sent orders to each prefecture to seize such letters and burn them. One was so burned at Chin-ju on the 3rd inst.

The police have issued orders that women shall not be found on the streets at night nor shall any woman use a jinriksha except palace dancing-girls.

We learn that the payment of Y750,000 by the Emperor to the Electric Company is not only to cover half interest in the company but also in settlement of various outstanding claims against him, on the part of the company. From now on the new company will be known as the American-Korean Electric Company.

A German steamer brought 20,782 bags of rice from Saigon recently. The high price of rice in Seoul probably made the transaction a profitable one.

On the 1st inst. the Foreign Office returned to the Japanese Legation the application for the use of fallow lands in Korea. The Korean government seems to have taken a very determined stand on this question

The Japanese authorities have stated that miscreants who cut the telegraph wires between Seoul and Wonsan must be punished by the Koreans to the extreme limit of the law, and that if it is not done the Japanese will seize them and inflict capital punishment.

Yi To-ja, formerly Foreign Minister but now vice president of the Privy Council, has organized a large company for the purpose of developing mining and agricultural resources in Korea. This is since the Japanese made their demand for special privileges. There is a good deal of money behind the venture. There are 200,000 shares of $50 each making a total of $10,000,000. Of this amount $200,000 is already paid up.

The Japanese Legation instructed the Consul General to deal out strict justice to the two Japanese who murdered Koreans in Konsan.

On the 11th inst. the government ordered the release of all prisoners held on the charge of minor offenses. This applies to about 200 men, many of whom have already profited by the order.

A company of Japanese consisting of 150 men has been organized to take advantage of the new fishing privileges lately granted by the Korean government on the western coast of the country.

A large number of influential men in Seoul have united in sending letters to all the prefectures in the land urging that country people come up to Seoul to aid in impressing the government with the extreme seriousness of the proposed granting of Korean land to Japanese. In other words they propose a national demonstration which shall impress both the Koreans and the Japanese.

The government has abolished the Northwest Railway Burerau, which planned to build a Seoul-Wiju Railway under French supervision.

Since the 13th inst. there has existed in Seoul a Society called the Po-an-whe or Society for the Promotion of Peace and Safety. It numbers many leading men, among whom are Sin Keui-sun, Yi To-jă and Song Su-man. Its object is to discuss ways and means for the protection of Korean interests. Public addresses have been delivered before large popular audiences at Chong no. The Japanese police have interfered with these gatherings and arrested one of the speakers, Song Su-nan, and took him to the Japanese Consulate in spite of imminent riot. This society sent to all the government offices and invited the officials to attend the meetings of the society outside of regular office hours. In one of their meetings a man arose and argued that it would be well to grant the Japanese request. Instantly the meeting was in an uproar. They wanted to despatch the man on the spot but better counsels prevailed and he was sent under arrest to the Police Headquarters, where after receiving a beating and promising to make a handsome donation to the society he was let off. Because of these evils which threaten the country Cho Pyung-se and Sim Sun-t'ak have come up from the country. They are very strong men, former high officials who left for the country because of their too outspoken criticism of the evils of the administration. Now they are needed again.

The Governor of Pyeng-an reports that serious disturbance is threatened by the people because of the large extent of ground staked out for the railway station there. It is believed to be from two to three times as large as is necessary and as the Koreans do not receive full value for the land and houses which are taken it causes great dissatisfaction.

Because of the accident on the electric road by which a child was killed two conductors were arrested and the Chief of Police said that $10,000 must be paid as indemnity for the life of the child. As the entire blame for the accident rested on the child who fell in front of the car a little diplomacy secured the release of the conductors.

Messrs. Harry and Morris Allen arrived in Chemulpo early in July

on a visit to Dr. and Mrs Allen. We understand that they stay until the first of August.

Viscount de Fontenay left Seoul about the middle of July, upon the return of M. Collin de Plancy, the French Minister.

The Foreigu Minister has been bitterly criticized for his pro-Japanese sympathies, in spite of the fact that he rejected the application for the unoccupied laud of the country, and he desired to resign his position and tried to do so several times but His Majesty has not beeu willing to dispense with his valuable services.

Ninety young men of good family have been selected by the Educational Departmeut to go to Japan and study. They are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five.

Three Koreans who had sent in memorials against the granting of the Japanese demands were arrested by the Japanese police and taken to the Japanese police headquarters where they were questioned. They indignantly denied the right of the Japanese to arrest them or call in question their acts in any way. The Japauese therefore sent them to the Korean police office where they were straightway set at liberty.

The Foreign Office has protested against the great extent of ground appropriated at Pyeng-yang by the Japanese for a railway station and the iuadequate prices paid the people for their land and houses.

The British Government has sent a despatch urging the Koreau Government to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of the Korean Minister to the Court of St James.

The prefect of Kă-ryŭng, in Kyŭng-saug province, reports that some lawless, armed Koreans infested the highway and that one Japanese was killed ou the road and says that every effort will be made to appreheud the guilty parties and briug them to justice.

Something very like cholera has broken out in the river town of Sŭ-gang just below Mapo. Fears are expressed that it may become epidemic in Seoul and the Japanese authorities have urged the government to take prompt steps to prevent it.

In answer to the Japauese charges against Yi Kyŭng-jik the prefect of Yong-ch'ŭn that he aided the Russians, the Foreign Office has declared that the charges are false and that if Yi Kyŭng-jik is to blame the Foreign Office itself is the one to bear the blame. His Majesty ordered that the accused party be brought up to Seoul but the people of Yong-ch'ŭn decline to dispense with his services and will not allow him to come. They seized his baggage aud prevented his departure. This is a pretty good recommeudation. In too many cases the people would be glad to "speed the parting guest."

Twenty-three students of the government Law School have been graduated after a course of three years of study.

The Superintendent of Kyŏng-heung reports that for the purpose of reconstructing the telegraph line from that point to the Tuman River the Russians have demanded that Koreans cut the timber and set up

the poles, but the prefect says that he informed them that he would not consent to this until he had consulted with the Seoul government, and he asks instructions from Seoul. It is not known what actual commands have been given. Ostensibly the request has been refused.

Yi Sun-bŏm, one of the most active Koreans in opposition to the proposed concession of fallow lands to the Japanese, was arrested by the latter and lodged in the Japanese police station. The Foreign Office demanded his release but the Japanese replied that he would be released after the Korean government took active steps to put down the opposition. The Japanese police took the man to Chong-no and ordered him to announce publicly before the crowd that compliance with the Japanese demand would result in great benefits to the Korean people. He indignantly refused and the people were greatly enraged. He was then carried back to the Japanese police station, but was released later.

Kwŭn Chung-sŭk was the Korean appointed by the Emperor to go to Manchuria and watch the progress of the war in the interests of the Korean government but as he actively supported the request of the Japanese for the use of the fallow lands he became an object of grave suspicion to the Korean officials and so his appointment was cancelled and Kwŭn Chung-Pyŭu was appointed in his place.

Cho Pyŭng-p'il has been made Home Minister in the place of Yi Yong-t'ă, resigned.

His Majesty has graciously remitted the house tax in the northern provinces where the people have been disturbed by the military operations of the Japanese and Russians.

Mr. Hagiwara has again pressed the Government to carry out its promise to mend the road from Seoul to Wiju.

The Korean press states that the Japanese Government has decided not to place a general adviser at Seoul.

The prefect of Kyŏng-heung informed the central Government at the end of June that the Russians had bridged the Tuman and were compelling the people to mend the road between the river and Kyŏng-heung.

The Governor of North Ham-gyŭng, who, by the way, is a nephew of Yi Yong-ik, informed the Government about the end of June that the Russians had seized large amounts of provisions and cattle in his territory, that twenty Russians seized the telegraph office at Kyŏng-sŭng and carried away 400 coils of telegraph wire and 500 insulators and compelled the Koreans to carry them away for them.

The Russians broke up a common school in Kyŏng-sŭng and sent the students home. This is a characteristic Russian move. They apparently hate schools and education.

In June the weather became so dry that fears were felt for the crops, and sacrifices were offered at Yong-san, Puk-ak and Nam-san.

Two men were condemned to banishment last April but through bribery they delayed the execution of the sentence till July ; but an investigation followed and the guilty police were punished and the two men sent to their places of banishment.

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(7) The assessment, collection and disbursement of the national revenue shall be in the hands of the Finance Department.

(8) The expenses of the Royal Household shall be reduced, that the example may become a law to the other departments.

(9) An annual budget shall be made out so as to regulate the management of the revenue.

(10) The laws governing local officials shall be speedily revised in order that their various functions may be differentiated.

(11) Intelligent young men shall be sent to foreign countries to study.

(12) A method for the instruction of military officers and a mode of enlistment for soldiers shall be determined upon.

(13) Civil and criminal law must be clearly defined and strictly adhered to and imprisonment and fines in excess of the law are prohibited.

(14) Men shall be employed irrespective of their origin. Ability alone shall determine a man's eligibility whether in Seoul or in the country.

CHAPTER XX.

The ex-Regent's influence ..The queen's influence....continued reforms .. King adopts new title ...cruel punishments abolished Arch demolished ...Yun Chi-ho....Korea astonished at Japanese victory over Chinese ..Buddhist monks allowed in Seoul.... Yi Chun-yong banished ..Independence Day ...Pak Yong-hyo ... again banished American Mining concession .... Count Inouye retires .. cholera .. official change .. Educational reform ... arrival of Viscount Miura....Japanese policy ...Miura direct-

ly implicated in murder of queen....Inouye not concerned....Japanese Government ignorant of Miura's plot.

The year 1895 was big with history. Its events created a strong and lasting impression upon the whole Korean people and it is in the light of these events that the whole subsequent history of the country must be interpreted. The year opened in apparent prosperity. The king had taken oath to govern according to enlightened principles and had exhorted his officials to adhere strictly to the reform program, protesting that if he himself failed to do so it would be an offence against Heaven. The Tă-wŭn-gun had retired from public life but as his son, the brother of the king, was Minister of the Household and his grandson Yi Chun-yong held a position near the king, there can be no doubt that in a private way the Tă-wŭn-gun exercised fully as much influence as he had done while in active office. It is necessary to bear in mind that the enmity of the queen against the ex-Regent extended to the sons of the latter and in spite of the terms of the king's oath constant pressure was brought to bear upon the king from that direction. Whatever be the reason, we find that in January Yi Chun-yong was sent to Japan as Korean Minister, an act that was really in favor of the anti-Regent faction since it temporarily removed one of the chief actors from the immediate stage.

The progress of the so-called reforms went on apace. The outside, the integuments, were changed, whatever may or may not have happened in the inner mind. The long baggy sleeves which had distinguished the true *yang-ban* were done away and the side-openings of the long coats were sewed up. The width of the hat brims was curtailed and other minor changes were effected. A salutary change was made by putting power into the hands of the ministers of state to carry out the work of their respective offices according to law without referring every thing to the central government, excepting in very important cases where it affected other departments. The immemorial customs regarding the salutations of inferiors to superiors and *vice versa* were largely done away and more democratic rules formulated. The Home Minister undertook to correct many abuses in the

country, to ferret out cases where cultivated land returned no revenue, because of the indirection of the *ajŭns*, and by this means the revenue of the government was very largely augmented.

At the advice of the leading members of the Cabinet His Majesty adopted the title of *Ta-gun-ju Pye-ha* (大君主陛下) in place of his former title of *Chon-ha* (殿下). This elevated him to a position somewhat higher than that of *Wang* (王) but still much lower than the title of emperor which he later assumed. All other members of the Royal Family were likewise elevated one degree.

At this time a radical change was made in the manner of punishing criminals. The cruel forms of execution and of torture which had always prevailed were done away and more humane methods instituted. Decapitation was done away and strangulation substituted. This worked no relief for the criminal but the horrible spectacle of public decapitation was relegated to the past.

A large number of men who had been banished or who had fled the country because of connection with the troubles of 1884 and other years, were pardoned and their relatives were again recognized as eligible to office.

On the native New Year which occurred in February the king issued an important edict saying that office should be given not only to men of noble blood but to others of good character and attainments, and he ordered that such men be selected and sent up from the country as candidates for official position. This was very pleasing to the country people and was hailed as a genuine sign of political renovation. At the same time the ancient arch outside the West Gate was demolished. This arch was the only remaining sign of Chinese suzerainty and its demolition broke the last visible thread which bound Korea to her great patron. We say visible advisedly, for there can be no doubt that the intrinsic loyalty of the vast majority of Koreans to China was still practically unimpaired.

On February thirteenth Yun Chi-ho returned from many years' sojourn in America and China where he had gained a genuine insight into truly enlightened government, and his return to Korea would have been a most happy

augury had there been enough enlightened sentiment in the country to form a basis for genuine as distinguished from superficial reform.

Meanwhile the Japanese were carrying everything before them in Manchuria and the end had now come. The Korean government therefore sent a special envoy to the Japanese headquarters on the field at Hai-cheng, congratulating them upon their brilliant successes. Soon after this the war terminated with the treaty of Shimonoseki by the terms of which China ceded to Japan southern Manchuria, and the island of Formosa, abjured all interest in Korea and paid an enormous indemnity. The result astonished the Koreans but so strong was the feeling in favor of China that very many still clung to the idea that China would pay the money and then go to work preparing for a much greater struggle with the victorious Japanese.

Since the year 1456 Buddhist monks had been forbidden to enter Seoul. This was part of the general policy of this dynasty to give Buddhism no political foothold. Now the Japanese secured from the government a reinstatement of the Buddhists in their original position and for the first time in four centuries and a half the mendicant monk with his wooden gong and rosary begged on the streets of Seoul.

In April a great misfortune overtook the house of the ex-Regent. His grandson, Yi Chun-yong, nephew to the king, was arrested and charged with having connived with *tonghaks* and others to depose the king and assume the reins of power. It was not shown that Yi Chun-yong had been a main mover in the scheme or that he had even favored the idea, but the very fact that his name had been used in such a connection was enough to send him into banishment on the island of Kyo-dong, off Kang-wha. Four other men connected with this affair were executed. This was a severe blow to the ex-Regent and did much to bring him to the point which made possible the terrible events of the following October.

The sixth of June witnessed a great celebration in Seoul, which has gone down in history as Independence Day. A fete was held in the "Old Palace" which exceeded in brilliancy

any similar demonstration since the opening of Korea to foreign relations

It was inevitable that, from the moment of his arrival in Korea, Pok Yong-hyo should be at sword's points with the Tă-wŭn-gun, for the returned refugee represented the radical wing of the reform party, which the ex-Regent had always bitterly opposed; and besides the presence of such a strong man would necessarily subtract from the influence of the aged but autocratic prince. It is probable that the Japanese brought Pak Yong-hyo back to Korea under the impression that he would prove a willing instrument in their hands, but they soon discovered that he had ideas and opinions of his own and that he was working rather for Korea than for Japan. He failed to fall in with some of the plans which would help the Japanese but at the expense of Korea and, in fine, be became something of an embarrassment to his former benefactors. Meanwhile the king and queen were both attached to him, and this for several reasons. He was a near relative of the king and would have no cause for desiring a change in the status of the reigning house; in the second place he was a determined enemy of the Tă-wŭn-gun, and in the third place he was sure to work against a too liberal policy toward the Japanese. This attitude of increasing friendliness between him and the Royal family was a further cause of uneasiness to the Japanese, although Count Inouye himself had done much to win the good will of the queen. Finally Pak Yong-hyo had won the lasting gratitude of the king and queen by exposing the machinations of Yi Chun-yong.

The ex-Regent was determined that Pak Yong-hyo should be gotten out of the way. To this end he concocted a scheme which, with the probable sanction of the Japanese, seemed to promise success. He laid before the king certain grave charges of treason against Pak, which, though not believed either by the king or the queen, convinced them that it would be impossible to shield him from probable destruction; for the people still called him a traitor, the ex-Regent would spare no pains to see him put out of the way and it was evident that the Japanese would not take any strong measures to protect him. The queen called him up and

advised him to make good his escape before action could be taken on the charge of treason. He complied and forthwith escaped again to Japan. He had not as yet broken with the Japanese and they were doubtless glad to help him away. It was early in July that he passed off the stage, perhaps for ever, and thus there were lost to Korea the services of one of the most genuinely patriotic Koreans of modern times. If the Japanese could have deteriminedly put the ex-Regent in the background and allowed Pak Youg-hyo to work out his plans on terms of amity with the Royal family all the evils which followed might easily have been averted. It was this act, as we believe, of allowing the ex-Regent to carry out his scheme of personal revenge that caused the whole trouble and there never was a time, before or since, when brighter hopes for Korea were more ruthlessly sacrificed.

But progressive measures kept on apace and during July the government issued new and important mining, quarantine and army regulations and organized a domestic postal system. A valuable mining concession in the district of Un-san in the north was granted to an American syndicate, a transaction that has proved the most profitable, at least to the foreigner, of any attempt to open up the resources of Korea.

Near the end of the month Korea suffered the misfortune of seeing Count Inouye retire from the Legation in Seoul and return to Japan. Never did the Japanese have such need of a strong and upright man in Seoul and never had a Japanese Minister in Seoul opportunity for greater distinction. There are those who believe that he despaired of accomplishing anything so long as the two opposing factions in Seoul were led by personalities so strong and so implacable in their mutual hatred as the queen and the ex-Regent. It is not unlikely that he felt that until one or other of these should be permanently removed from the field of action there could be no real opportunity for the renovation of Korea. This by no means implies that he desired such removal to be effected by forcible means but it is not unnatural to suppose that he must have given expression to the conviction as to the futility of doing anything under existing conditions in the peninsula. There have been some who have believed that the Japanese authorities in Tokyo

determined upon the removal of the obstacle in Seoul by any means in their power. Subsequent events gave some color to this surmise but we cannot and do not believe that the Japanese government was a party to the plot which ended in the tragedy of the following October but that a fanatical and injudicious Japanese Minister to Korea privately gave his sanction to an act which the Japanese government would have sternly forbidden had they been consulted.

The summer of 1895 witnessed the first serious epidemic of cholera in Korea since the far more destructive one of 1886. Special plague hospitals were erected in Seoul and in spite of their temporary and inadequate nature the foreign protestant missionaries of Seoul, who were in charge, accomplished very much in the way of local relief. It is impossible to say what the total mortality in Seoul was, to say nothing of the country at large, but it is probable that ten or twelve thousand people died in the Capital before the subsidence of the epidemic.

The forces which worked to the expulsion of Pok Yonghyo also operated to curtail the term of banishment of Yi Chun-yung who was recalled from Kyo-dong Island on August 6th, but even the ex-Regent could not secure the residence of his grandson in Seoul, so he sent the young man to Japan, since which time he has been numbered with the political refugees and has never been able to think of returning to his native land. After the departure of Count Inouye, who had enjoyed the partial confidence of the queen, the ex-Regent's prospects improved to such an extent that several of the ministers of state who were well affected toward Her Majesty were removed and others substituted; especially significant was the removal of the king's brother Yi Chămyŭn from the Ministry of the Household. As he was the son of the ex-Regent, this would seem to be a defeat for that faction but, in fact, his removal from that position was a necessary step to the carrying out of the dangerous plot which was already being formulated in the mind of the queen's determined enemy.

This summer, which witnessed so many curious contradictions, was further distinguished by a determined effort in the line of education. The Educational Department pro-

jected a Normal school and a beginning was made. One hundred and seventeen young men were sent to study in Japan and other measures of lesser importance were carried out.

On the first day of September Viscount Miura arrived from Japan to assume the duties of Minister. Over a month had elapsed since the departure of Count Inouye. The Viscount was an entuhsiastic Buddhist and evidently belonged to the old rather than the new Japan. He was, withal, a strenuous man and is said to have considered the settlement of the Korean difficulties merely a matter of prompt and vigorous action. At the time of his arrival the ex-Regent was living at his summer-house near the river and from the very first he was in close relations with the new Japanese Minister. It was quite evident that the latter had espoused the cause of the ex-Regent as against the queen and that instead of trying to close the breach which was constantly widening between these two powerfnl personages he was preparing to make use of this estrangement to further what he supposed to be the interests of Japan. Min Yong-whan, the most powerful of the queen's friends, was sent to America as Minister; and everything was ready for the *coup* which had undoubtedly been determined upon. From the mass of conflicting evidence, charge and counter charge, it is difficult to escape the following conclusion. There were two different policies held by political parties in Japan as to the best way to handle the Korean question; one was what we may call the radical policy which advocated strong measures and the instant and complete overthrow of all opposition to the will of Japan in the peninsula; the other, or conservative, policy looked to the attainment of the same object by gradual and pacific means. It seems that the failure of Count Inouye to accomplish anything definite in the line of a settlement of internal dissentions at Seoul resulted in the appointment of Viscount Miura as an exponent of the extreme radical policy. He was supposed to do prompt work but what that work would be perhaps neither he nor his constituency saw clearly before his arrival on the sceue. It would be going much too far to say that the assassination of the queen was once thought of, and yet it is more than likely that those

most conversant with conditions in Seoul felt that by some means or other her enormous influence must be permanently checked and that affairs must be so managed that she should have nothing more to do in the handling of questions of state. How this was to be accomplished neither Miura nor any of his advisers knew until he came and looked over the field.

For this reason it is easy to see how the ex-Regent would be the first man in Korea with whom the Japanese Minister would wish to consult, and it is certain that the Tă-wŭn-gun would have but one word to say as to the solution of the difficulty. His experience of twenty years had convinced him that there was only one way to accomplish the object which the Minister had in view and while Viscount Miura naturally shrunk from adopting that course it would seem he too was at last convinced that it was the only feasible plan. That he actually advised it in the first instance we do not believe, but that he fell in with the plan which others suggested and which they offered to carry through without his personal intervention there can be no doubt whatever. Nor can there be any question as to where the responsibility for the tragedy rests; not with the Japanese Government, surely, except in-so-far as its appointment of such a man to the difficult post of Minister to Seoul may reflect upon its wisdom.

It has sometimes been hinted that Count Inouye upon his return to Japan advocated some such policy as that which was carried out by Marquis Miura but there is nothing to indicate that this is other than a libel, for the whole career of that able statesman gives the lie to such suspicions and his dispatches to his government show the very opposite spirit from that intimated in these slanderous reports. For instance we have the extract from his reports read in the Japanese Parliament in which he says:

On one occasion the queen observed to me, "It was a matter of extreme regret to me that the overtures made by me toward Japan were rejected." The Tă-wŭn-gun, on the other hand, who showed his unfriendliness toward Japan, was assissted by the Japanese Minister to rise in power." In reply to this I gave as far as I could an explanation of these things to the queen and after allaying her suspicions I

further explained that it was the true and sincere desire of the emperor and government of Japan to place the independence of Korea on a firm basis and in the meantime to strengthen the Royal House of Korea. In the event of any member of the Royal family, or indeed any Korean, attempting treason against the Royal House, I gave the assurance that the Japanese Government would not fail to protect the Royal House even by force of arms.

This unequivocal promise of protection was made by Count Inouye just before his departure for Japan and we do not and cannot believe that he expressed anything but his honest sentiments and those of the government that was back of him. It has been urged that the action of the Japanese Government in acquitting Viscount Miura in the face of the evidence given proves the complicity of that government in the outrage and its previous knowledge that it was to be perpetrated, but this does not necessarily follow. That government was doubtless unwilling to stultify itself by acknowledging that its accredited minister to Korea was actually guilty of the crime indicated in the charge. This attempt to evade the responsibility was of course futile. There was no escape from the dilemma in which that government was placed but the deduction that it was *particeps criminis* in the events of October 8th is unbelievable. It was the work of Viscount Miura and of his staff and of them alone, as is shown by the following extract from the Decison of the Japanese Court of Preliminary Inquiry, which court sat in Hiroshima in January 1896.

CHAPTER XXI.

Decision of Hiroshima Court on queen's assassination ...Miura's estimate of situation....Approached by Tă-wŭn-gun....pledges required of ex-Regent....Miura's instructions....preparations complete....The rendezvous at the Tă-wŭn-gun's summer place....a final exhortation....joining the Korean troops outside the West Gate....The move on the palace....the entrance ...Royal quarters surrounded....The search for the queen....the assassination.... Viscount Miura arrives on the scene....an audience....other representatives arrive and see the king....Miura disclaims any connection with the plot....degradation of the queen....foreign representatives refuse to recognize it....Miura recalled.

We append the decision of the Hiroshima Court in full as it gives the fullest and probably the most nearly correct account of the events which led up to the assassination of the queen. It reads as follows:—

"Okamoto Ryunosuke, Adviser to the Korean Departments of War and the Household, etc.

"Miura Goro, Vicount, Sho Sammi, First class order, Lieutenant General, etc.

"Sugimura Fukashi, Sho Rokui, First Secretary of Legation, and forty-five others.

"Having, in compliance with the request of the Public Procurator conducted preliminary examinations in the case of murder and sedition brought against the above-mentioned Okamoto Ryunosuke and forty-seven others and that of wilful homicide brought against Hirayama Iwawo, we find as follows:—

"The accused, Miura Goro, assumed his official duties as His Imperial Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Seoul on Sept. 1st, 1895. According to his observations, things in Korea were tending in the wrong direction. The court was daily growing more and more arbitrary, and attempting wanton interferance with the conduct of state affairs. Disorder and confusion were in this way introduced into the system of administration that had just been reorganized under the guidance and advice of the Imperial government. The court went so far in turning its face upon Japan that a project was mooted for disbanding the *Kunrentai* troops, drilled by Japanese officers, and for punishing their officers. Moreover a report came to the knowledge of the said Miura that the court had under contemplation a scheme for usurping all political power by degrading some and killing others of the Cabinet Ministers suspected of devotion to the cause of progress and independence.

"Under these circumstances he was greatly perturbed inasmuch as he thought that the attitude assumed by the court not only showed remarkable ingratitude toward this country which had spent labor and money for Korea, but was also calculated to thwart the work of internal reform and jeopardize the independence of the kingdom. The policy pursued by the court was consequently considered to be injurious to

Korea, as well as prejudicial in no small degree to the interests of this country. The accused felt it to be of urgent importance to apply an effective remedy to this state of affairs, so as on the one hand to secure the independence of the Korean kingdom and on the other to maintain the prestige of this empire in that country. While thoughts like these agitated his mind, he was secretly approached by the Tā-wŭn-gun with a request for assistance, the Prince being indignant at the untoward turn that events were taking and having determined to undertake the reform of the court and thus discharge his duty of advising the king. The accused then held at the legation a conference with Sugimura Fukashi and Okamoto Ryunosuke on the 3rd of October. The decision arrived at was that assistance should be rendered to the Tā-wŭn-gun's entrance into the palace by making use of the Japanese drilled Korean soldiers who being hated by the court felt themselves in danger, and of the young men who deeply lamented the course of events, and also by causing the Japanese troops stationed in Seoul to offer their support to the enterprise. It was further resolved that this opportunity should be availed of for taking the life of the queen, who exercised overwhelming influence in the court. They at the same time thought it necessary to provide against the possible danger of the Tā-wŭn-gun's interfering with the conduct of State affairs in future—an interferance that might prove of a more evil character than that which it was now sought to overturn. To this end, a document containing pledges required of the Ta-wun-gun on four points was drawn by Sigimura Fukashi. The document was carried to the country residence of the Ta-wun-gun on the 15th of the month by Okamoto Ryunosuke, the latter being on intimate terms with His Highness. After informing the Ta-wun-gun that the turn of events demanded His Highness' intervention once more, Okomoto presented the document to the Prince saying that it embodied what Minister Miura expected from him. The Ta-wun-gun, together with his son and grandson gladly consented to the conditions proposed and also wrote a letter guaranteeing his good faith. Miura Goro and others decided to carry out the concerted plan by the middle of the month. Fearing lest Okamoto's visit to the Ta-wun-gun's residence

should excite suspicion and lead to the exposure of their plan, it was given out that he had proceeded thither simply for the purpose of taking leave of the Prince before departing for home, and to impart an appearauce of probability to this report, it was decided that Okamoto should leave Seoul for Chemulpo and he took his departure from the capital on the sixth. On the following day An Kyung-su, the Minister of War, visited the Japanese Legation by order of the court. Referring to the projected disbanding of the Japanese drilled Korean soldiers, he asked the Japanese Minister's views on the subject. It was now evident that the moment had arrived, and that no more delay should be made. Miura Goro and Sugimura Fukashi consequently determined to carry out the plot on the night of that very day. On the one hand, a telegram was sent to Okamoto requesting him to come back to Seoul at once, and on the other, they delivered to Horiguchi Kumaichi a paper containing a detailed program concerning the entry of the Ta-wun-gun into the palace and caused him to meet Okamoto at Yong-san so that they might proceed to enter the palace. Miura Goro further issued instructions to Umayabara Muhon, commander of the Japanese batallion in Seoul, ordering him to facilitate the Ta-wun-gun's entry into the palace by directing the disposition of the Japanese drilled Korean troops and by calling out the Imperial force for their support. Miura also summoned the accused Adachi Kenszo and Kunitomo Shigeakira, and requested them to collect their friends, meeting Okamoto at Yong-san, and act as the Ta-wun-gun's body-guard on the occasion of His Highness' entrance into the palace. Miura told them that on the success of the enterprise depended the eradication of the evils that had done so much mischief to the kingdom for the past twenty years, and instigated them to dispatch the Queen when they entered the palace. Miura ordered the accused Ogiyara Hidejiro to proceed to Yong-san, at the head of the police force under him, and after consultation with Okamoto to take such steps as might be necessary to expedite the Ta-wun-gun's entry into the palace.

"The accused, Sugimura Fukashi, summoned Suzuki Shigemoto and Asayama Kenzo to the Legation and acquainted them with the projected enterprise, directed the former to

send the accused, Suzuki Junken, to Yong-san to act as interpreter and the latter to carry the news to a Korean named Yi Chu-whe, who was known to be a warm advocate of the Ta-wun-gun's return to the palace. Sugimura further drew up a manifesto, explaining the reasons of the Ta-wun-gun's entrance into the palace and charged Ogiwara Hidejiro to deliver to Horiguchi Kumaichi.

"The accused Horiguchi Kumaichi at once departed for Yong-san on horse-back. Ogiwara Hidejiro issued orders to the policemen that were off duty to put on civilian dress, provide themselves with swords and proceed to Yong-san. Ogiwara also himself went to the same place.

"Thither also, repaired by his order the accused Watanabe Takajiro, Oda Yoshimitsu, Nariai Kishiro, Kiwaki Sukunori and Sakai Masataro.

"The accused Yokowo Yutaro joined the party at Yong-san. Asayama Kenzo saw Yi Chu-whe and informed him of the projected enterprise against the palace that night. Having ascertained that Yi had then collected a few other Koreans and proceeded toward the Ta-wun-gun's place Asama at once left for Yong-san. Suzuki Shigemoto went to Yong-san in company with Suzuki Junken. The accused Adachi Kenzo and Kunitomo Shigeakira, at the instigation of Miura, decided to murder the Queen and took steps to collect accomplices. Twenty-four others (names here inserted) responded to the call, by Miura's order, to act as body-guard to the Ta-wun-gun on the occasion of his entrance into the palace. Hirayama Iwahiko and more than ten others were directed by Adachi Kenzo and others to do away with the Queen and they decided to follow the advice. The others who were not admitted into the secret but who joined the party from mere curiosity also carried weapons. With the exception of Kunitomo Shigeakira Tsukinori and two others all the accused went to Youg-san in company with Adachi Kenzo.

"The accused Okamoto Ryunosuke on receipt of a telegram saying that time was urgent at once left Chemulpo for Seoul. Being informed on his way, at about midnight, that Hoshiguchi Kennaichi was waiting for him at Mapo he proceeded thither and met the persons assembled there. There he received from Miura Goro the draft manifesto al-

ready alluded to, and other documents. After he had consulted with two or three others about the method of effecting an entrance into the palace the whole party started for the Ta-wun-gun's place with Okamoto as their leader. At about three o'clock A. M. on the eighth of October they left the Prince's place escorting him in his palanquin, with Yi Chu-whe and other Koreans. When on the point of departure, Okamoto assembled the whole party outside the gate of the Prince's residence and declared that on entering the palace the "Fox" should be dealt with according as exigency might require, the obvious purport of this declaration to instigate his followers to murder Her Majesty the Queen. As the result of this declaration, Sakai Marataro and a few others, who had not yet been initiated into the secret, resolved to act in accordance with the suggestion. Then slowly proceeding toward Seoul, the party met the Japanese drilled Korean troops outside the West Gate where they waited some time for the arrival of the Japanese troops. With the Korean troops as vanguard the party then proceeded toward the palace at a more rapid rate. On the way they were joined by Kunitomo Shigeakira and four others. The accused Husamoto, Yasumaru and Oura Shigehiko also joined the party having been requested by Umagabara Muhon to accompany as interpreters the military officers charged with the supervision of the Korean troops. About dawn the whole party entered the palace through the Kwang-wha Gate and at once proceeded to enter the inner chambers."

At this point the recital of the facts abruptly stops and the court goes on to state that in spite of these proven facts there is not sufficient evidence to prove that any of the Japanese actually committed the crime which had been contemplated, and all the accused are discharged.

It is very much to the credit of the Japanese authorities that they frankly published these incriminating facts and did not attempt to suppress them. Their action discharging the accused was a candid statement that in spite of the actual proof which they adduce it would not be possible to punish the perpetrators of the outrage, for Miura had been sent as the accredited Minister of Japan and his acts, through unforeseen by his superiors could not but partake of an official

character, and therefore the onus of the affair must fall on the Japanese Government. This is the effect that was produced in the public mind, and while the Japanese Government as such must be acquitted of any intention or desire to secure the assassination of the Queen, yet it can scarcely escape the charge of criminal carelessness in according to the Korean Court a representative who would so far forget the dignity of his position as to plan and encourage the perpetration of such a revolting crime.

The description of the scene as given by the Hiroshma court stops abruptly with the entrance into the palace before the actual business of the day began. It is necessary for us to take up the narration from that point. The buildings occupied by the King and Queen were near the back of the palace enclosure almost half a mile from the front gate, so that the Japanese and Korean force accompanied by the ex-Regent had to traverse a long succession of passage-ways through a great mass of buildings before reaching the object of their search. Some of the palace guard were met on the way and easily pushed aside, some of them being killed, among whom was Col. Hong. When the Japanese arrived at the buildings occupied by their Majesties a part of them formed about it in military order guarding all the approaches, but they did not enter the building. A crowd of Japanese civilians commonly believed to be *soshi*, and a considerable number of Koreans, all heavily armed, rushed into the Royal quarters. A part of the crowd went into the presence of the King brandishing their weapons but without directly attacking his person nor that of the Crown Prince who stood beside him. Another part of the crowd ranged through the apartments of the Queen, seizing palace women and demanding information as to the whereabouts of the Queen. They met Yi Kyŭng-jik the Minister of the Household before the Queen's apartments and at once cut him down, but he managed to crawl into the presence of the King, where he was despatched by the Japanese. The Queen was found in one of the rooms which constituted her suite and was ruthlessly cut down. It is impossible to state with absolute certainty whether the blow was struck by a Korean or by a Japanese but the overwhelming probability is that it was done by one of the armed Japanese.